

The Office of Inspector General (OIG), Department of Defense (DoD), announced today that on December 14, 2001, Bert Fish Medical Center, Inc., New Smyrna Beach, Florida, entered into an agreement with the United States Department of Justice to settle allegations set forth in a qui tam complaint. The terms of the agreement are that Bert Fish Medical Center, Inc. will pay the United States \$293,334 and agrees to comply with the terms of a Corporate Integrity Agreement with the Department of Health and Human Services.

The United States investigated the allegations in the qui tam action and contends Bert Fish Medical Center, Inc. (Bert Fish) submitted, or caused to be submitted, claims for payment to the Medicare TRICARE Programs. The Medicare and TRICARE Programs relied upon the hospital to properly indicate the beneficiary's principal diagnosis as the basis for payment of inpatient treatment. The investigation determined Bert Fish submitted claims in which the principal diagnosis was not supported by the corresponding medical records.